



Edited Points without an Edit History

At some point along your editing journey, you may have encountered a few mysterious points that have a green, blue, purple, or yellow border but no edit history. These points can be found all over the country, but appear to be especially prevalent among California schools, for example.

What's up with that?

Well, back in 2016 when we made the transition from our old editor to our [new editor](#), we had to transfer all of the data that our volunteers (and USGS staff) had already edited. We were able to transfer the status of each point, but not the edit history. Points that appear to be edited but do not have edit histories were first verified in the old editor then transferred to the new editor, and have not been edited since. Points which have an edit history were edited using the new editor (which we launched in August 2016).

What do I do with these points?

It's been at least 2 years (and probably more) since these points have been edited. So if you happen to stumble upon points without an edit history, we encourage you to research and update them the same way you would research and update unedited data (yes, even if the point is yellow). And if you're unsure about any of these strange points, feel free to send us a message at nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

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Click here to view the edit history of a point. If there is no history, you'll get the message seen on the right.

Cancel Save Delete View History

This point has a yellow border.

But it doesn't have an edit history.

This feature has not been edited

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Behind the Scenes: Feedback Emails

As a current or new editor, you may have received an email from the staff here at The National Map Corps entitled “The National Map Corps Feedback,” or “TNMCorps Feedback.” These emails are based on the results of a quality check we perform on a sample of your points. If we notice anything requiring improvement, we’ll point it out in our email but our messages aren’t meant to reprimand you. Our goal is simply to keep the lines of communication open with our volunteers and ensure that the data we are gathering is of high quality.



Who gets reviewed?

Generally, the number of unique points you’ve edited determines the type of review we conduct. But we’ll also conduct a quality check and send you an email if you’ve reached out to us requesting the Peer Reviewer or Advanced Editor roles. The following infographic specifies how we determine who is eligible for a review:



What happens next?

After we’ve identified which volunteers have met the various point thresholds, we pull a sample of their points as a CSV file. We then research each point on that list the same way you do it at home. When we look through a sample, we use [authoritative sources](#) to confirm information about the point. We may also use commercial mapping services and their on-the-ground views (as supplementary resources, of course!) to verify the location of the point in question.

While reviewing each point, we will take note of any discrepancies that might arise, such as the icon being placed on the incorrect building, or the incorrect name entered for a given point. If we do find any discrepancies, we will write up a feedback email and send the draft out to the rest of the team for review. Once our email has been given the green light, we’ll send it your way to help make you a better editor!

User Guide Issues with Google Chrome

Although we recommend using the [Google Chrome](#) browser to access the [TNMCorps editor](#), the same can't necessarily be said of our [User Guide](#). Recently, Google Chrome underwent some [patches and upgrades](#) that have compromised its compatibility with the [software](#) we use to generate our help guides. This includes our [User Guide](#) and our [Volunteer Recognition page](#). They're still functional in Google Chrome, but if you've been using a newer version of the browser, you may have noticed that the tables of contents' folders have a tendency to freeze. You might be able to open a couple of folders, but the next one you try to open [won't expand](#).

This is a small but irritating issue that can be remedied by opening up the User Guide in a different browser (such as [Firefox](#) or [Internet Explorer](#)). Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience, and if anyone out there has any magical fixes for this problem, feel free to [send them our way](#)!



This folder opens

This folder opens

This folder does not open



Mapping Challenges

If you've been wondering where in the world (well, in the U.S. anyway) you should edit next, then head on down to [The Peach State](#)! We're currently running two [Mapping Challenges](#) in Georgia, one to collect and update post offices and one to collect courthouses.

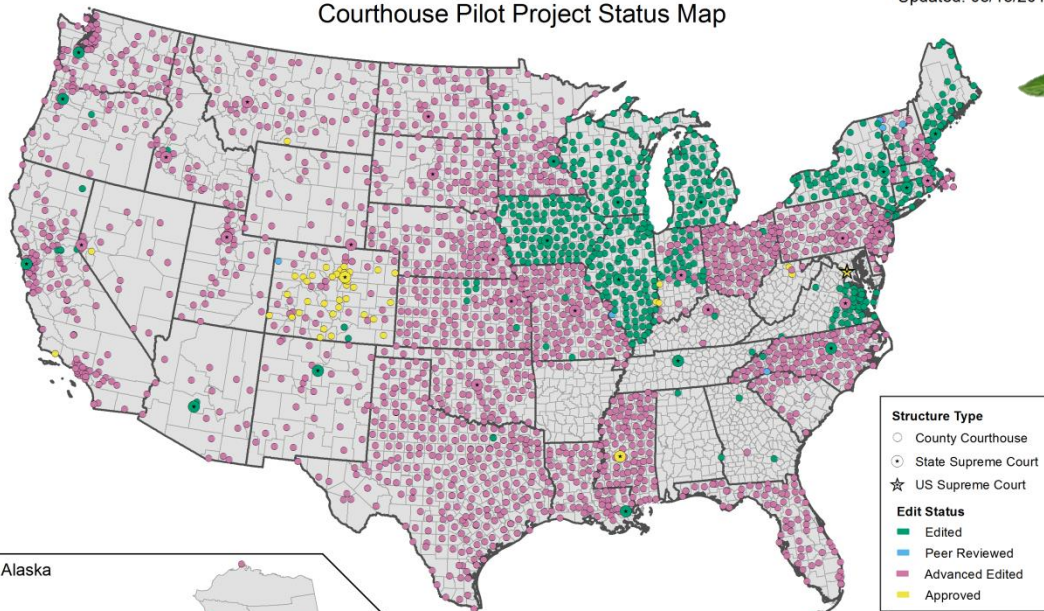
Georgia Post Office Challenge

A ton of great work has been done on the [post office challenge](#), but there's still more work to do. Be sure to check out our [Interactive Status Map](#) to see where the unedited data is. If you decide to help out with this challenge, keep these [important details](#) in mind:

1. Many points are missing from the post office data
2. Many duplicate post office points need to be cleaned up
3. Many post office points are located on the road rather than on the correct building

Courthouse Pilot Project Status Map

Updated: 03/13/2018



Alaska

Hawaii

Puerto Rico

US Virgin Islands



<http://www.peachfork.com/new-page/>

Georgia Courthouse Challenge

As part of our [Courthouse Pilot Project](#), we're also running a mapping challenge to [collect all of the courthouses in Georgia](#). Don't forget about those other states though! We're getting *really close* to having a complete national courthouse dataset, but editing has slowed down quite a bit and there are still a few blank spaces on the map that need to be filled.

Check out the status map on the left to see which states are still missing data, and help us close this case once and for all! If you need a little guidance, be sure to read through the [courthouse section](#) of our [User Guide](#).

The Longest Place Name in the United States

What's in a Name?

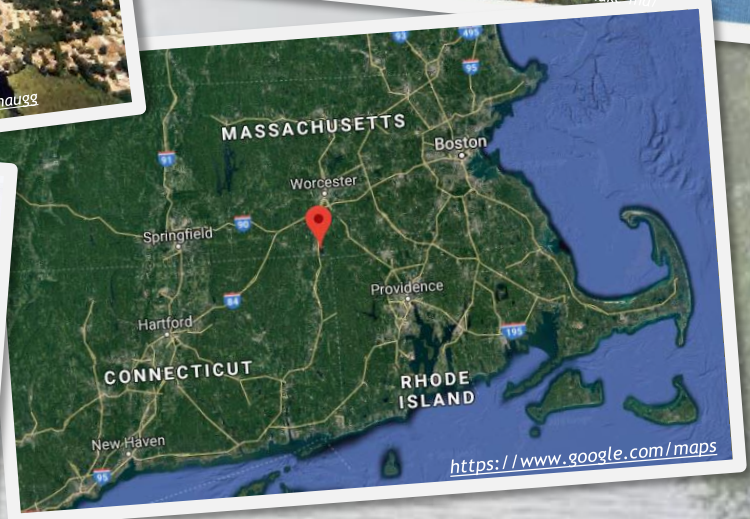
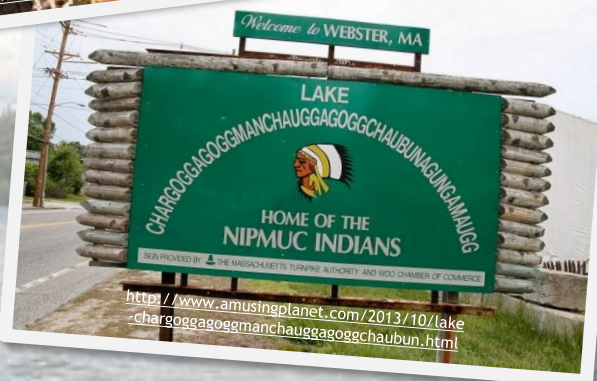
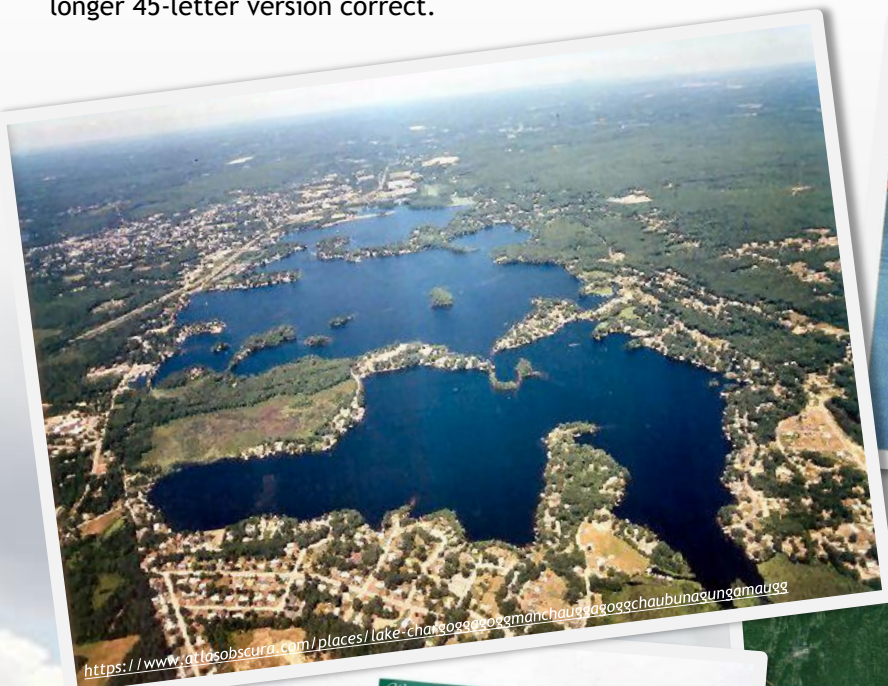
We've come across several unique names during our daily operations and it's always fun looking into the history behind them. For instance, we've come across several streets named "Outlaw Road" in New Mexico (Billy-the-Kid, anyone?). In the East, there are several roads named "Dummyline Road" which are named after "the small steam engine — called a dummy — that powered the streetcar" ([Progressive Railroading](#), June 2012). And recently, one of our staff members was reviewing structures in [Webster, Massachusetts](#) when they encountered another unique name.

Longest Place Name in the United States

Webster is a small community in southern Massachusetts where Connecticut and Rhode Island meet. What's unique about this town is that it's associated with the longest place name in the U.S.: Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagamaugg. That's 45 letters and 14 syllables! While it's not the longest place name in the world, the lake still frequently makes [top-ten lists of the longest place names](#). The number one longest (single-word) place name in the world goes to [Taumata Hill](#) (aka Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu) in New Zealand. We're not even going to try to pronounce that one!

Lake Chargogga-what? Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagamaugg!

The term "Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagamaugg" comes from the language of the Nipmuck Indians. A historian in the town of Webster has translated this to mean "English knifemen and Nipmuck Indians at the boundary or neutral fishing place" ([New York Times](#), 2004). The lake's 45-letter title is actually an aggregation of [two different names: Lake Chargoggagoggmanchoggagogg and Lake Chaubunagamaugg](#). Some literature points to this aggregation as a [hoax performed by a Webster Times editor in the 1920s](#). The U.S. Department of the Interior recognizes the lake by Chaubunagamaugg, its oldest known name. However, many locals (including the [Town of Webster](#)) still consider the longer 45-letter version correct.



The Longest Place Name in the United States (Continued)

History

The [Nipmuck Indians entered the region](#) during the retreat of the North American ice sheets around 9000 BC. This transitioned into the [Archaic Period \(circa 7000 BC\)](#) and then the [Woodland Period \(circa 1000 BC\)](#). After the Woodland period came the 17th century colonial period, when Puritan settlers from England started laying claim to land in Native American territory. Land could either be purchased from a tribe, or [acquired through a royal grant](#) from England. As the number of settlers increased during this time, so did the [use of Indian names on land deeds](#) because it was often [more expedient](#) to procure land from the tribes directly. This is why Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg (Lake Chaubunagungamaugg) retains its indigenous name.

Today

Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg covers [1,442 acres](#) flowing through three interconnected spring-fed lakes. The lake has [17 miles of shore line](#) and “was a haven for summer sojourners” ([New York Times](#), 2004). Locals refer to the lake as Lake Webster, though several community organizations still proudly reference the lake’s full name, which explains how we came across this scenario! We were verifying the [Webster Police Department](#) with its [website](#) when we noticed that both the [Webster Police](#) and the [Webster Fire](#) Departments have the lake’s full name incorporated into their logos.



Logo sources:
<http://www.webster-ma.gov/157/Police-Department>
<http://www.webster-ma.gov/339/Fire-Department>



With a name like that, who wouldn't want to dig in a little deeper?

Imagery courtesy of Google Street View™

Aerial Photo Interpretation Part 4: Prison / Correctional Facilities

This article is the fourth in a series of newsletter articles highlighting aerial photo interpretation for different structure types. This month we will focus on Prison / Correctional Facilities.

Check out our past [newsletters](#) for the other articles in this series:

[September 2017](#) - Part 1: Cemeteries

[November 2017](#) - Part 2: Post Offices

[January 2018](#) - Part 3: Fire Stations and EMS

You may not realize it, but every time you participate in TNMCorps you are conducting aerial photo interpretation. This part of the process of editing structures can be quite fun and interesting. In order to identify the correct building associated with a structure point, you must do a little bit of detective work by searching for clues in the imagery. You may be an expert at this, or you may be new to it. Either way, here are some helpful tips and tricks for interpreting the aerial photography background layers and identifying building types.

Prison / Correctional Facilities

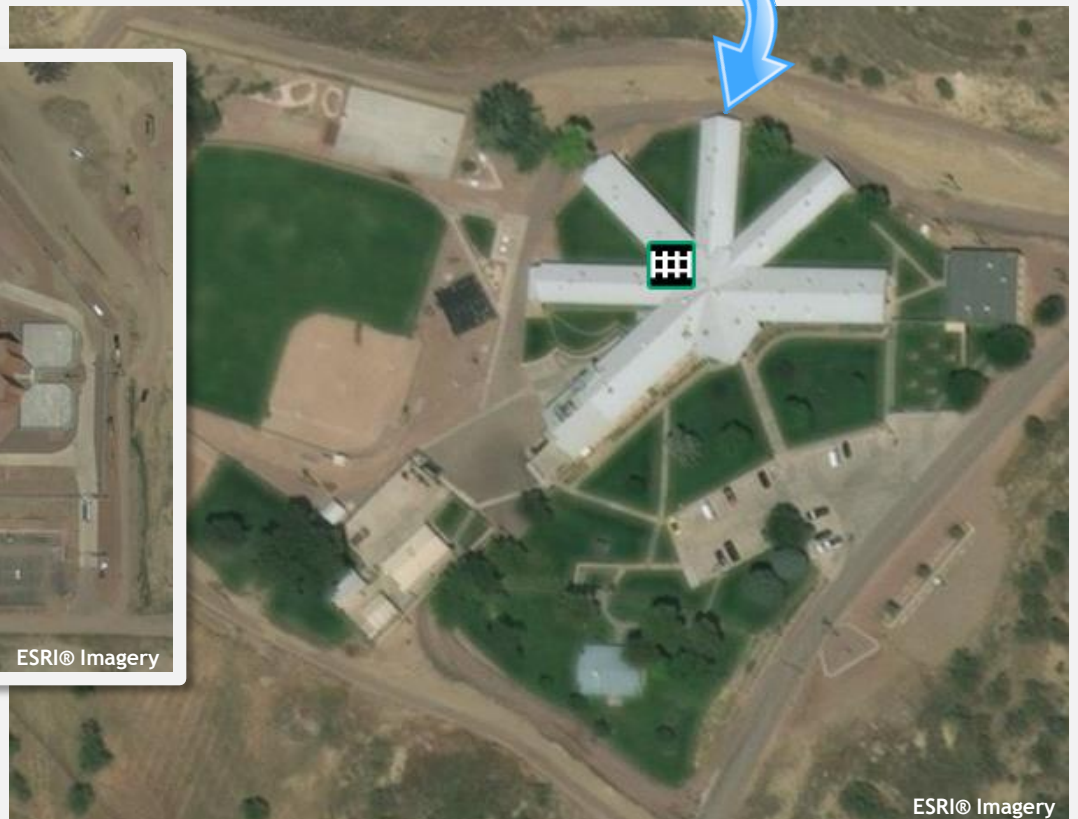
This is often one of the easier structures to locate using aerial imagery. Before editing this structure type, make sure you’ve reviewed the [structures definition table](#) to find out what we do and don’t collect as prison / correctional facility features. Although this structure is easier to locate on the map, the specifics of what we collect may be a little bit more complicated. If you have questions, such as [whether or not to collect a jail](#), check out our [Q&A page](#), and try a keyword search.

Keep in mind that the tips below are not hard and fast rules, but may help you identify the correct building.

Aerial Photo Interpretation (Continued)

Building Size

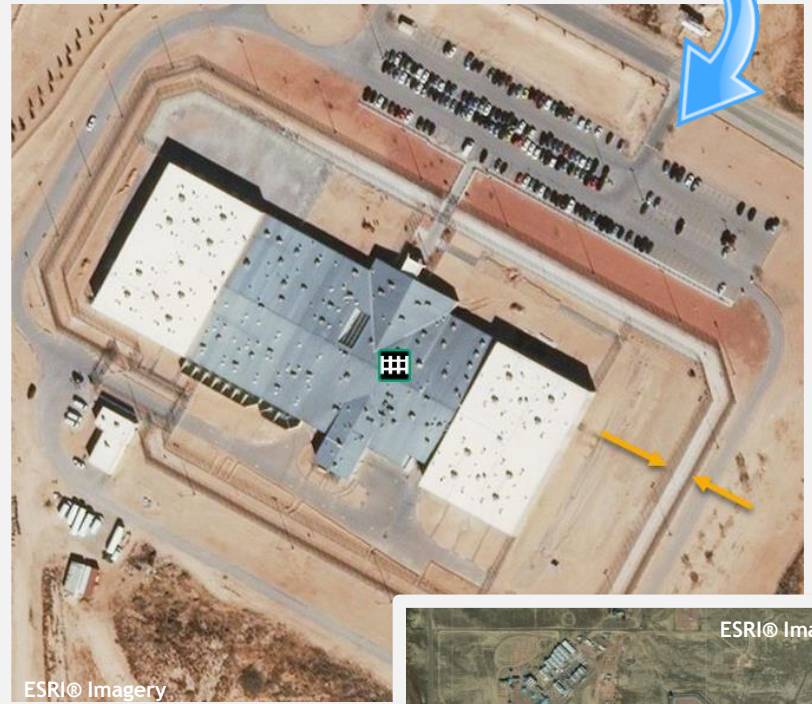
Most prisons and correctional facilities are larger buildings, as compared to other buildings seen on the aerial imagery. They will often have “wings” or multiple dormitory-style buildings, as seen in the examples below.



Aerial Photo Interpretation (Continued)



Visible Fence or Wall



Remote/Rural

Prisons are frequently located away from the city center, or in more rural parts of a state.



Urban prisons vary widely. Some may just look like an office building, while others may be more obviously a compound (high wall/fence, sports field/court, or dormitory buildings).

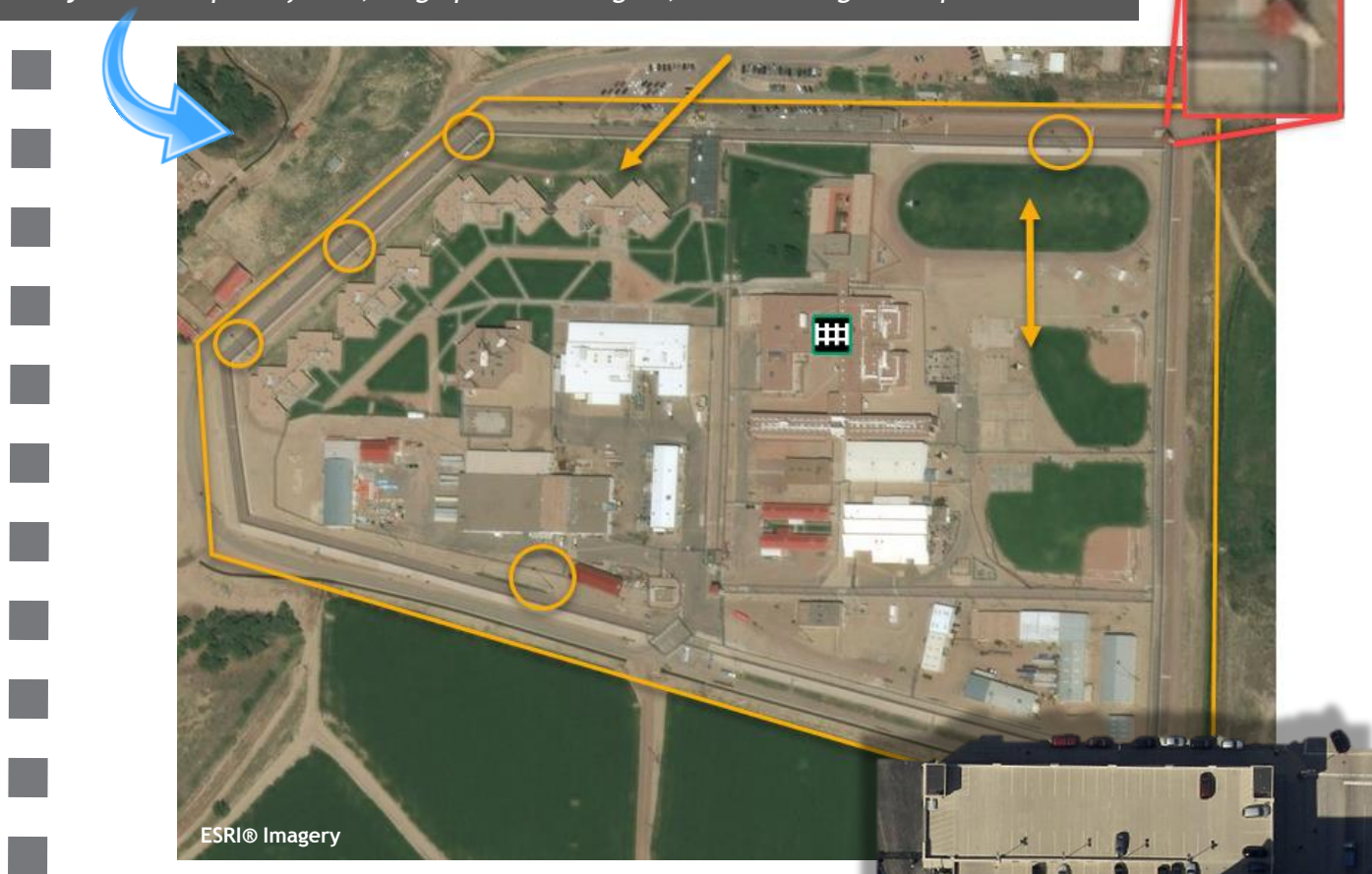


Urban prisons might also be a tall building with small windows.



Aerial Photo Interpretation (Continued)

This one has it all: a guard tower, a visible perimeter/fencing, dormitory-style buildings, a yard with sports fields, large perimeter lights, and it is larger complex.



Comparing photos to aerial imagery

One of the most useful tools for identifying the correct building or facility is to find a photograph of the building from an authoritative resource, and looking for identifiable characteristics of the building on the aerial imagery.

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In this example, I can compare the shape of the building as seen from above to the photograph, and identify the distinct shape of the building. In comparing the photograph to the aerial imagery, I can also see that the facade (color and windows) looks the same, and I can even see that the building has a little bit of an overhang. I can also get a general idea of the height of the building, and also the shape, from the shadow.

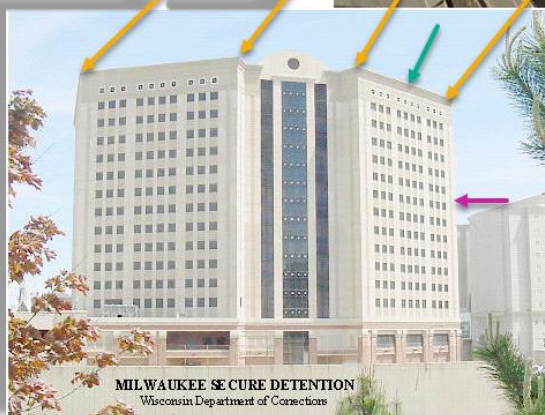


Image:
<https://doc.wi.gov/Pages/OffenderInformation/AdultInstitutions/MilwaukeeSecureDetentionFacility.aspx>

TNMCorps Maze



Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing. Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the "public domain," and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov

New Recognition Category Members



Squadron of Biplane Spectators
(6000-6999)



Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers
(5000-5999)



Family of Floating Photogrammetrists
(3000-3999)

- tmp21038



Flock of Winged Witnesses
(4000-4999)



Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)

- USGSTaylor
- tmp21038
- TSDNAV



Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)

- genovt
- Rick Ely



Stadia Board Society (500-999)

- lrhayden
- awatters
- Ibn Battuta
- Rick Ely



Circle of the Surveyor's Compass (200-499)

- Ibn Battuta
- Ricky Ely
- tbrasington
- dcohen0677
- katenjhs



Pedometer Posse (100-199)

- Ibn Battuta
- ejames2126
- Abhi Kamerkar
- wefjr7944
- katenjhs
- Mike D
- charlienjhs
- tbrasington
- dcohen0677
- Rick Ely



Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)

- Ibn Battuta
- ejames2126
- Abhi Kamerkar
- wefjr7944
- katenjhs
- Rick Ely
- dbmcclellan
- dcohen0677
- BruceLT
- laurenlobue
- CarrieB
- tbrasington
- Mike D
- charlienjhs



Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)

- Ibn Battuta
- aloama
- blelja
- ejames2126
- jalock1
- pscordato224
- Kit-Kat
- Mandars
- Abhi Kamerkar
- bikerburns
- katenjhs
- wefjr7944
- hyperbolejoy
- Rick Ely
- laurenlobue
- dbmcclellan
- dmbech
- SnowLeopard
- BruceLT
- CarrieB
- Mountains2Sea
- Natali Colombo
- charlienjhs
- morgantaylor531
- radhikari
- tbrasington
- Mike D
- dcohen0677

CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

